



**For Release: Thursday, July 19, 2018**

**18-936-CHI**

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

Technical information: (312) 353-1880 BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov [www.bls.gov/regions/midwest](http://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest)

Media contact: (312) 353-1138

## **County Employment and Wages in Michigan — Fourth Quarter 2017**

Nine of the 10 large counties in Michigan had employment increases from December 2016 to December 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2016 annual average employment.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that Washtenaw County had the largest increase, up 1.7 percent, followed by Ottawa County, up 1.3 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

Nationally, employment advanced 1.5 percent from December 2016 to December 2017 with 316 of the 346 largest U.S. counties registering increases. Midland, Texas, had the largest percentage increase in the country, up 11.5 percent over the year. Shawnee, Kan., and Caddo, La., had the largest over-the-year percentage decreases in employment among the largest counties in the U.S., with losses of 1.8 percent each.

Among the 10 largest counties in Michigan, employment was highest in Oakland County (735,100) and Wayne County (725,300) in December 2017. Two other counties, Kent (402,500) and Macomb (328,800), also had employment levels of more than 300,000. Collectively, Michigan's 10 large counties accounted for 70.0 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 346 largest counties made up 73.0 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in Saginaw and Oakland counties rose 3.7 and 3.6 percent, respectively, from the fourth quarter of 2016 to the fourth quarter of 2017, and were the largest increases among Michigan's large counties. (See [table 1](#).) Among the largest counties, Oakland had the highest average weekly wage in the state at \$1,253, followed by Wayne at \$1,212. Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 3.9 percent over the year, increasing to \$1,109 in the fourth quarter of 2017.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 73 counties in Michigan with employment levels below 75,000. With the exception of Midland County (\$1,800), all smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average. (See [table 2](#).)

### **Large county wage changes**

All of Michigan's large counties had over-the-year wage gains, but all were lower than the national increase of 3.9 percent. (See [table 1](#).) As noted, Saginaw and Oakland counties had the state's largest average weekly wage increases, up 3.7 and 3.6 percent respectively, and ranked 107<sup>th</sup> and 117<sup>th</sup> among the nation's 346 largest counties. One other large county, Washtenaw (3.2 percent, 151<sup>st</sup>), ranked among the top-half nationwide for wage growth.

Among the 346 largest counties in the U.S., 339 had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages in the fourth quarter of 2017. San Mateo, Calif., and Ada, Idaho, had the largest percentage increases in average weekly wages among the largest U.S. counties (11.5 percent each). Seven of the 346 largest counties experienced over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages. Clayton, Ga., had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages with a decline of 6.7 percent.

### **Large county average weekly wages**

As noted, Oakland County (\$1,253) had the highest average weekly wage in the state and ranked 50<sup>th</sup> among the 346 largest U.S. counties. Wayne (\$1,212, 59<sup>th</sup>) and Washtenaw (\$1,134, 79<sup>th</sup>) also reported average weekly wages above the national average of \$1,109. Three other counties—Macomb (\$1,091), Ingham (\$1,041) and Kalamazoo (\$1,002)—had average weekly wages that placed in the top-half of the national ranking. Saginaw (\$897) had the lowest average weekly wage among the state’s large counties and ranked 275<sup>th</sup> nationwide.

Nationally, weekly wages were higher than the U.S. average of \$1,109 in 95 of the 346 largest counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position with an average weekly wage of \$2,576, followed by New York, N.Y. (\$2,439), and San Mateo, Calif. (\$2,341). Among the largest U.S. counties, more than two-thirds (251) reported average weekly wages below the national average in the fourth quarter of 2017. The lowest weekly wages were in the Texas counties of Cameron (\$652) and Hidalgo (\$664), followed by Horry, S.C. (\$674).

### **Average weekly wages in Michigan’s smaller counties**

Seventy-two counties in Michigan with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages below the national average of \$1,109. Among these smaller counties, Midland had the highest average weekly wage at \$1,800, while Keweenaw had the lowest at \$515. (See [table 2.](#))

When all 83 counties in Michigan were considered, all but 4 had wages below the national average. Two had average weekly wages of \$649 or lower, 19 had wages from \$650 to \$749, 32 had wages from \$750 to \$849, 17 had wages from \$850 to \$949, and 13 had wages of \$950 or higher. (See [chart 1.](#))

### **Additional statistics and other information**

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in [table 3](#). For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the [Technical Note](#) or visit [www.bls.gov/cew](http://www.bls.gov/cew).

*Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2016 edition of this publication contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2017 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2016* are now available online at [www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn16.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn16.htm). The 2017 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2018.

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**The County Employment and Wages news release for first quarter 2018 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, August 22, 2018.**

## **QCEW Publication Acceleration and Conversion to Two Data Releases**

The national QCEW publication process has accelerated for a more timely release. Beginning with the national fourth quarter 2017 release, QCEW data are now published in two parts. The current County Employment and Wages news release and associated data have been accelerated and published first. The full QCEW data release, with smaller county data contained in this release, occurs two weeks later.

### **Technical Note**

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The 10.0 million employer reports cover 145.9 million full- and part-time workers. The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8342.

**Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 10 largest counties in Michigan, fourth quarter 2017**

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	December 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2016-17 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, fourth quarter 2016-17 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	145,921.1	1.5	--	\$1,109	--	3.9	--
Michigan .....	4,321.8	0.9	--	1,062	17	3.4	16
Genesee, Mich. ....	136.0	0.4	281	899	273	0.9	322
Ingham, Mich. ....	153.1	0.6	255	1,041	137	1.1	314
Kalamazoo, Mich. ....	119.8	1.2	167	1,002	173	2.0	270
Kent, Mich. ....	402.5	1.2	167	956	213	1.9	281
Macomb, Mich. ....	328.8	0.6	255	1,091	103	2.6	213
Oakland, Mich. ....	735.1	1.0	196	1,253	50	3.6	117
Ottawa, Mich. ....	124.3	1.3	158	976	190	2.7	200
Saginaw, Mich. ....	84.6	-0.9	336	897	275	3.7	107
Washtenaw, Mich. ....	215.6	1.7	111	1,134	79	3.2	151
Wayne, Mich. ....	725.3	0.2	302	1,212	59	2.4	241

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(3) Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Michigan, fourth quarter 2017**

Area	Employment December 2017	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2) .....	145,921,109	\$1,109
Michigan .....	4,321,793	1,062
Alcona .....	1,732	744
Alger .....	2,355	821
Allegan .....	38,016	943
Alpena .....	11,519	752
Antrim .....	4,880	651
Arenac .....	4,359	732
Baraga .....	2,858	816
Barry .....	12,271	806
Bay .....	33,822	864
Benzie .....	4,029	685
Berrien .....	60,594	919
Branch .....	14,342	819
Calhoun .....	55,414	990
Cass .....	9,407	783
Charlevoix .....	10,030	860
Cheboygan .....	5,868	657
Chippewa .....	12,275	740
Clare .....	6,943	770
Clinton .....	16,409	886
Crawford .....	3,916	783
Delta .....	13,429	771
Dickinson .....	13,877	924
Eaton .....	42,101	937
Emmet .....	17,363	813
Genesee .....	136,010	899
Gladwin .....	3,955	718
Gogebic .....	5,469	758
Grand Traverse .....	49,747	887
Gratiot .....	12,548	883
Hillsdale .....	12,525	857
Houghton .....	11,019	822
Huron .....	11,041	800
Ingham .....	153,079	1,041
Ionia .....	21,169	674
Iosco .....	7,409	757
Iron .....	3,716	728
Isabella .....	29,159	773
Jackson .....	56,966	959
Kalamazoo .....	119,780	1,002
Kalkaska .....	4,013	1,017
Kent .....	402,486	956
Keweenaw .....	310	515
Lake .....	1,529	675
Lapeer .....	20,633	813
Leelanau .....	5,934	751
Lenawee .....	26,715	826
Livingston .....	61,609	1,020
Luce .....	1,882	716
Mackinac .....	3,138	750
Macomb .....	328,824	1,091
Manistee .....	6,972	810
Marquette .....	26,863	814
Mason .....	10,041	776
Mecosta .....	13,898	813
Menominee .....	7,295	717

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Michigan, fourth quarter 2017 - Continued**

Area	Employment December 2017	Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>
Midland .....	36,721	1,800
Missaukee .....	3,275	706
Monroe .....	40,681	934
Montcalm .....	16,341	804
Montmorency .....	1,893	668
Muskegon .....	62,752	853
Newaygo .....	11,716	809
Oakland .....	735,129	1,253
Oceana .....	6,256	715
Ogemaw .....	5,734	748
Ontonagon .....	1,194	610
Osceola .....	6,616	888
Oscoda .....	1,387	651
Otsego .....	10,029	777
Ottawa .....	124,288	976
Presque Isle .....	2,746	766
Roscommon .....	5,165	652
Saginaw .....	84,556	897
St. Clair .....	44,450	875
St. Joseph .....	24,344	755
Sanilac .....	10,996	737
Schoolcraft .....	2,664	819
Shiawassee .....	16,039	767
Tuscola .....	11,235	817
Van Buren .....	20,315	850
Washtenaw .....	215,605	1,134
Wayne .....	725,260	1,212
Wexford .....	13,647	789

Footnotes

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

NOTE: Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. Data are preliminary.

**Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, fourth quarter 2017**

State	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
	December 2017 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2016-17	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, fourth quarter 2016-17	National ranking by percent change
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	145,921.1	1.5	\$1,109	--	3.9	--
Alabama .....	1,955.3	1.1	928	36	2.9	32
Alaska .....	306.7	-1.2	1,052	19	1.5	51
Arizona .....	2,834.7	2.6	978	25	3.5	12
Arkansas .....	1,217.2	1.0	848	48	2.5	42
California .....	17,293.0	2.1	1,346	4	5.7	4
Colorado .....	2,653.3	2.5	1,133	10	4.3	9
Connecticut .....	1,689.7	0.3	1,317	5	2.2	46
Delaware .....	444.9	0.6	1,081	15	2.6	40
District of Columbia .....	769.0	0.9	1,812	1	2.7	37
Florida .....	8,712.0	2.0	975	26	3.4	16
Georgia.....	4,425.0	1.8	1,027	20	3.4	16
Hawaii.....	664.5	0.8	984	24	3.1	26
Idaho .....	712.4	3.0	857	46	7.1	1
Illinois .....	6,001.1	0.8	1,151	9	2.6	40
Indiana.....	3,057.8	1.1	915	38	3.6	11
Iowa .....	1,549.7	0.4	938	32	3.0	28
Kansas .....	1,390.3	0.4	894	41	1.9	49
Kentucky.....	1,903.8	0.5	892	42	2.1	47
Louisiana .....	1,918.8	0.4	933	35	2.1	47
Maine.....	610.3	1.2	884	43	3.4	16
Maryland.....	2,683.6	0.5	1,207	8	3.3	22
Massachusetts .....	3,582.2	1.3	1,411	3	4.4	8
Michigan .....	4,321.8	0.9	1,062	17	3.4	16
Minnesota.....	2,875.7	1.3	1,100	14	3.4	16
Mississippi.....	1,140.6	0.5	774	51	2.4	45
Missouri .....	2,809.5	1.0	945	31	2.9	32
Montana .....	461.4	1.0	843	50	2.7	37
Nebraska .....	980.9	0.9	901	39	3.0	28
Nevada .....	1,351.9	3.5	955	29	3.2	25
New Hampshire.....	661.3	0.7	1,132	11	3.7	10
New Jersey.....	4,106.9	1.6	1,262	6	1.8	50
New Mexico .....	816.7	0.6	865	45	2.5	42
New York .....	9,465.3	1.4	1,428	2	6.4	2
North Carolina .....	4,388.6	1.5	964	28	3.3	22
North Dakota .....	416.1	0.4	1,010	22	3.3	22
Ohio .....	5,409.2	0.8	973	27	3.1	26
Oklahoma .....	1,607.8	1.2	895	40	3.5	12
Oregon .....	1,900.4	2.0	1,014	21	4.5	7
Pennsylvania .....	5,870.4	1.2	1,075	16	3.5	12
Rhode Island .....	483.6	1.1	1,056	18	2.7	37
South Carolina.....	2,058.8	1.6	879	44	2.8	35
South Dakota.....	423.8	0.9	856	47	3.4	16
Tennessee .....	2,984.8	1.3	1,000	23	3.0	28
Texas .....	12,207.8	2.0	1,109	13	3.5	12
Utah .....	1,465.5	3.6	936	33	2.9	32
Vermont.....	314.7	0.5	919	37	2.5	42
Virginia.....	3,884.2	1.3	1,121	12	2.8	35
Washington.....	3,305.0	2.4	1,217	7	5.8	3
West Virginia .....	693.1	0.1	847	49	4.7	5
Wisconsin .....	2,872.6	1.0	951	30	3.0	28
Wyoming .....	267.5	0.6	935	34	4.6	6
Puerto Rico.....	887.0	-4.4	570	(3)	2.5	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	34.3	-11.1	827	(3)	7.7	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Michigan, fourth quarter 2017**

